

CITY OF BLUE RIDGE
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 5, 2017

THE BLUE RIDGE CITY COUNCIL MET IN SPECIAL SESSION AT 7:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AT THE BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 200 W. TILTON, BLUE RIDGE, TEXAS 75424 AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION.

1. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Roll was called with the following members present, Mayor Rhonda Williams, Christina Porath, Amber Wood, Gerald Young, Allen Cunyningham and Kevin Bell.
3. Proclamation for Constitution Week, September 18 - 22 was read by Mayor Williams and received by the Daughters of the American Revolution.
4. Consent Agenda: a) Discuss, approve or disapprove the minutes from Regular Session held on August 1, 2017 and minutes from the Special Sessions held on August 8, 2017 and August 29, 2017; b)Public Works Update; c) City Financial Report; d) Fire Department Report; and e) Collin County Calls for Service.

With no questions, Christina Porath motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consider, discuss and act upon approving a \$10,000 expenditure from the Community Development Corporation (4B) to Mike McCreary for beautification of his parking lot, parking area and building improvements at 600 N Highway 78 as approved by BR CDC.

The Blue Ridge Community Development Corporation's budget allows for projects to benefit the community. Mike McCreary has submitted to the BR CDC such a project which was approved and therefore submitted to the City County for beautification of the parking lot area. The BR CDC is reimbursing a portion of the project which the Board approved \$10,000 of a \$60,000 project. The BR CDC also stipulated this business must remain active for a minimum of one year, otherwise the funds would be required to be returned to BR CDC. Christina Porath motioned to approve the expenditure with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider, discuss and act upon approving a \$1,934.97 expenditure from the Community Development Corporation (4B) to SKR for new booths for Cattleman's Cafe with stipulations, located at 120 W James St.

The Blue Ridge Community Development Corporation's budget allows for projects to benefit the community. Kim Garcia with SKR has submitted to the BR CDC such a project which was approved and therefore submitted to the City County for new booths for Cattleman's Cafe. The booths were recovered for \$3,900 and Ms. Garcia requested 1/2 the project totaling \$1,934.97. The BR CDC also stipulated this business must remain active for a minimum of 24 months, otherwise the funds would be required to be returned to BR CDC. Christina Porath motioned to approve the expenditure with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider, discuss and act upon approving the Community Development Corporation Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

With no discussion, Amber Wood motioned to approve the BRCDC budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 with Christina Porath seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Consider, discuss and act upon approving the Economic Development Corporation Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

The Blue Ridge Economic Development Board has received an offer to purchase the BREDC Office Complex. This offer has not gone to closing and will do so after the budget year has begun. If this exchange does occur, a budget amendment will be submitted to the Council. With no further discussion, Amber Wood motioned to approve the BREDC budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 as presented with Christina Porath seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Consider, discuss and act upon an Ordinance to adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Mayor Williams stated the budget presented for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 will raise more revenue from property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of \$17,738, which is a 9.83 percent increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is \$7,558. A record vote of the Council was taken as follows: Allen Cunnyingham voted No, Christina Porath voted Yes, Kevin Bell voted Yes, Gerald Young voted Yes and Amber Wood voted Yes. Motion carried 4 to 1.

10. Consider, discuss and act upon an Ordinance to adopt the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Mayor Williams stated the tax rate presented will raise more taxes for Maintenance and Operations than last year's rate. The tax rate will effectively be raised by 6.28 percent and will raise taxes for Maintenance and Operations on a \$100,000 home by approximately \$-30.57. A record vote of the Council was taken as follows: Allen Cunnyingham voted Yes, Christina Porath voted Yes, Kevin Bell voted Yes, Gerald Young voted Yes and Amber Wood voted Yes. Vote carried unanimously.

11. Consider, discuss and act upon an Ordinance to adopt the 2017 Tax Appraisal Roll.

With no discussion, a record vote of the Council was taken as follows: Allen Cunnyingham voted Yes, Christina Porath voted Yes, Kevin Bell voted Yes, Gerald Young voted Yes and Amber Wood voted Yes. Vote carried unanimously.

12. Second Public Hearing to consider and/or act upon a request to rezone 204 W FM 545, legally known as Blue Ridge Original Donation, Lot 34c, from Residential (R1) to Commercial Core Business (B1).

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:13pm and asked for those FOR the rezoning to come forward. Silvia Barroso, owner of 204 W FM 545, came forward expressing to have a Mexican Restaurant at this location. Christina Porath questioned how many parking spaces would be available. According to the Site Plan, 14 spaces were being allowed. With no one else FOR the rezone, Mayor Williams requested those OPPOSING the rezone to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:14pm. Christina Porath motioned to approve the rezone with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Second Public Hearing to consider and/or act upon a request to re-plat Lots 5a-2 and 5a-3, Ridge View Addition, also known as 234/236 East Pritchard Lane to allow a 4-plex with a variance of the building line on the north end of the property to allow for a utility easement on the south end of the property.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:15pm and asked those FOR the replat to come forward. Tonya Mercer, realtor for Mr. Lomas - owner of the property, came forward. A variance for a sewer line easement has been included on the plat as well as a variance to lower the building line from 15' to 7' due to situating the sewer line easement. The sewer line easement is needed to provide sewer to this area and will be required to cross onto the First United Methodist Church and continue to Highway 78. With no one else coming forward, Mayor Williams asked for those OPPOSING the replat to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:18pm. Kevin Bell motioned to approve the replat as presented with the variances with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Council voted for except Christina Porath who voted against. Motion carried 4 to 1.

14. Second Public Hearing to consider and/or act upon a request to re-plat Lot 38a, Blue Ridge Original Donation, located North of Bratcher Street where the lot currently meets North Main and North Morrow Streets.

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 7:10pm and asked those FOR the replat to come forward. David Apple, surveyor for the owner, came FOR the replat. At the last Public Hearing, a question was raised regarding the moving of property stakes. Mr. Apple stated upon his research, he found the stakes to have been placed incorrectly. According to proper surveyors regulations, once a stake is found to be incorrect, it can be moved to as close as possible as long as deeds can be shown. Since Mr. Apple could not find the original corners per the deed, the other deeds attaching the property reflected an excess of 2' so he pro-rated the distance and moved the pins to the North East. The only other concern brought before the Council at the previous Public Hearing involved a sewer line issue which has since been repaired. Mayor Williams asked for those OPPOSING the replat to come forward. With no one coming forward, Mayor Williams closed the Public Hearing at 7:22pm. Gerald Young questioned if drainage had been addressed. Since the owner was not present, David Apple stated 5' had been allowed for drainage to Morrow Street according to the lay of the land. Mr. Apple stated he does not foresee problems from drainage. Kevin Bell motioned to approve the replat as presented. Vote died for lack of a second. Motion died.

15. Consider, discuss and act upon Resolution # 2017-0905-001 designating The Leonard Graphic as the official newspaper for the City of Blue Ridge for Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Christina Porath motioned to approve the Resolution as presented with Gerald Young seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance # 2017-0905-004 establishing regulations for grease trap and grease interceptor regulations where fats, oils, and greases are generated as a result of food manufacturing, processing, preparation, or service within the Corporate Limits or sanitary sewer service area of the City of Blue Ridge.

The Ordinance, per Edie Sims, was required by TCEQ as well as providing safety measures for the City. Christina Porath motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Consider, discuss and act upon a contract with Bureau Veritas for inspection services in accordance with the Grease Trap Ordinance.

With the passing of the Grease Trap Ordinance, Bureau Veritas can provide inspection services. Amber Wood motioned to approve the contract with Christina Porath seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

18. Consider, discuss and act upon an contract for animal control services. North Texas Animal Control Authority and Collin County Animal Control & Animal Shelter Services have submitted contracts for discussion and approval.

Two contracts were submitted for review for animal control services. Kerry Payne with North Texas Animal Control Authority was present to offer answers to questions. After comparing the two, Christina Porath stated Collin County does not offer good services for the amount paid. NTACA has been in Blue Ridge before and overall the results were positive. NTACA is based in Lewisville with his animal shelter at Texas Motor Speedway; however arrangements can be made for animal retrieval. Another positive, Mr. Payne responds to calls 24/7/365 where Collin County does not answer calls, only by leaving a message and hoping to have a return call. NTACA will still charge impound fees, and will double fees if a special trip is made, but all calls are answered and given a response time.

The main issue was fuel costs included in the contract. Mr. Payne offered to match Collin County's contract amount of \$11,000 and not to charge anything above that price with an Addendum to the contract. Christina Porath stated when NTACA was here before, he had a steady presence.

With this added information, Christina Porath motioned to approve NTACA with an Addendum not to exceed \$11,000 per year with Kevin Bell seconding the motion. With all Council voting, Allen Cunnyingham opposed. Motion carried 4 to 1.

19. Consider, discuss and act upon Ordinance # 2017-0905-005 amending Ordinance #07172008 establishing a not to exceed amount for the Municipal Court Technology Fund; establishing a Municipal Court Building Fee; retention of certain fees through the Municipal Court; and placement of all fees on the Master Fee Schedule.

With all the fees being added to the Master Fee Schedule, including the Municipal Court Fees, Christina Porath motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented with Amber Wood seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

20. Consider, discuss and act upon a presentation from Collin County Sheriff Jim Skinner regarding patrol reorganization and a contract with the City of Blue Ridge to fund said project.

Sheriff Skinner came before the Council stating Collin County has 880 square miles with 499.8 being patrolled by Collin County Sheriff's Office. Each district is partitioned in 100

square feet areas for patrolling of which Blue Ridge is one. Sheriff Skinner reported statistics of growing crime rates and his plan presented to Commissioner's Court to fund more officers so that two officers would be on shift at any given time within each of the patrol districts. This plan is to increase response times. Commissioner's Court did fund some of his plan with a contingency that each unincorporated City within each district would participate in funding for 4 deputies.

Sheriff Skinner also stated he previously had a deputy assigned to the Blue Ridge area where he would begin his shift, but this will now change and be more centrally located in the Melissa area. Calls have been lower since having an officer stationed in Blue Ridge, but if 2 officers are not dedicated to this district with funding thru the City of Blue Ridge, the officers will need to be centrally located to the West.

With other cities participating, the Sheriff's Office budget is closer to attaining the plan presented to the Commissioner's Court. However, the City of Blue Ridge expressed their non-participation during the budget workshops. Commissioner's Court has funded \$717,000 with a contingency that all cities participate in the budget plan thru the Sheriff's Office. Blue Ridge's participation was requested at \$79,000 for the first year with undetermined amounts for the next 3 years.


Allen Cunnyngnam and Christina Porath brought to Sheriff Skinner's attention the poor contract that the City of Blue Ridge was offered. Mr. Cunnyngnam reiterated the district Blue Ridge would pay for included Westminster, Frognot and Pike as well as all areas surrounding Blue Ridge. Christina Porath brought to the attention the over time factors listed in the contract. After acknowledging the poor contract and being embarrassed, Sheriff Skinner stated he understood the push-back. City Secretary Edie Sims offered to discuss this matter during next year's budget workshops and if funding opportunities changed, the Council can re-evaluate.

Mike McCreary stated he appreciated the City's condition of funding but also requested the Council to be open to what the Sheriff is trying to accomplish and how his plan is beneficial to the area. Mr. McCreary asked the Council to reconsider this funding challenge as soon as deemed possible.


21. Citizen Participation. No one spoke during Citizen Participation.

22. Adjournment. Christina Porath motioned to adjourn with Allen Cunnyngnam seconding the motion. Council adjourned at 8:11pm.

APPROVED:


Rhonda Williams, Mayor

ATTEST:


Edie Sims, City Secretary